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COLOMNA file

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13 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Possible Contribution of 1107 Photography
to Provide Intelligence on Reported Sino-
Soviet Border Skirmish

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1. [redacted] reported to this office that, acting on an Associated Press relay of a radio Peking report of a Soviet penetration of China in northwest Sinkiang Province, he had taken action to find whether 1107 might have photographed the area.

[redacted] defined the area in question as being in the vicinity of the Dzungarian Gate north of the Tien Shan range. According to the Associated Press relay, several hundred Soviets covered by two helicopters and accompanied by ten tanks and armored cars had penetrated approximately a mile into the Sinkiang Province.

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2. [redacted] verified that there had been no coverage of the Dzungarian Gate area by 1107-1. 1107-2 had attempted to photograph this area on one pass on 9 August. With respect to the remainder of the border area, seven other passes had attempted photography.

3. Following consultation with [redacted] it was agreed that a single complete copy of the film would be picked up at Eastman Kodak at 1800 hours this date. The film would be delivered to NPIC at approximately 2200 hours and PIs would start to work on the Sino-Soviet border photography upon receipt. It was agreed that this procedure would stand, without any need for further consultation, unless the NIC special meeting, in session during the latter part of the morning, should suggest that intelligence available to it would not be enhanced by photography.

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[redacted]
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